



In Case of Emergency...

Monthly Newsletter of the Utah Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management

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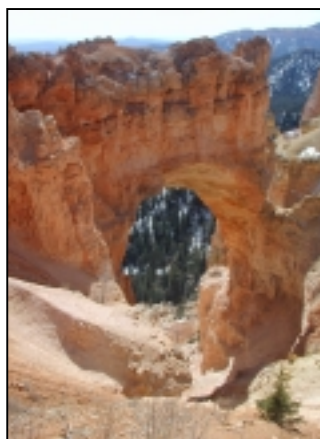
PUBLIC OFFICIALS WORKSHOP



Over 120 elected and appointed public officials from across Utah met at Bryce, Utah in March 22nd and 23rd to discuss how to manage disasters and emergencies at the local level. Topics

included "Challenges of Rural Emergency Communication, Establishing Emergency Operations Centers, Making Your Community Disaster Resistant, and Coordinating Multi-Agency Emergency Response.

"Any type of crisis or disaster always starts at the local level, so it is essential that we work together to prepare for any type of crisis that may happen in Utah," said Utah Comprehensive Emergency Management Director Scott Behunin. "Workshops such as this facilitate the sharing of ideas, enhance communication and strengthen relationships, which all work to better serve the citizens of Utah," Behunin added.



CEM Director Scott Behunin supervises the SimCell during the exercise portion of the workshop.

Presenters included Garfield County Sheriff Than Cooper, Brigham City Emergency Manager James Buchanan, Iron County Sheriff David "Dude" Benson, Washington County

Emergency Services and Communication Director Dean Cox, Kane County

Emergency Services & Information Technology Director Dave Owens, and new Utah Homeland Security Task Force Commander Captain Steven Demille.

CEM IS PROUD TO WELCOME NEW HOMELAND SECURITY COMMANDER

Captain Steven Demille is now the new commander of the Utah Homeland Security Taskforce. Born in Provo, Utah, Steve has a Masters degree in Public Administration from BYU. He has been a law enforcement officer for the past 26 years. A few of the assignments he has undertaken include: UOPSC protocol commander, Deputy Director of Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST), Security Police for US Air Force, and Railroad Special Agent in Kansas and Texas. We are proud to have Captain Demille at CEM.

CEM PIO'S TAKE TO THE ROAD

The Basic Public Information Officer course was recently taken on the road.

Destination:

Vernal, Utah.

On March 26th,

CEM PIO's Chris

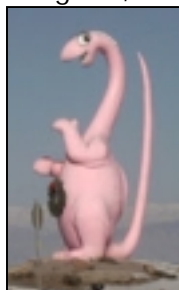
Kramer and Byron

Spratt visited the Vernal Western Center to conduct the basic PIO class for Vernal area emergency managers and first responders.

The practice of taking CEM training classes on the road is beneficial for communities where travel to the Salt Lake area is difficult.

For four instructional hours, the course covered the topic: Media Relations - How To Work Effectively With The Media. Subtopics include: Why do we talk to the media, The media - who are these people? What makes a story news, Stupid interview tricks, Credibility - how to get it, Media plans, Media access - where to put them, and Joint Information System / Joint Information Centers.

If you are interested in hosting a CEM course, please contact the training section. And be sure to look for the basic PIO course and other communications-based classes to be taken to many Utah communities during the summer of 2002.



HMI ROAD SHOW

The Utah Division of Comprehensive Emergency Management's Hazardous Materials Institute (HMI) is the primary state agency responsible for the development and delivery of courses designed to meet the needs of hazardous materials first responders through out the State.



All public sector emergency response agency personnel are

eligible to receive this training at little or no cost to their respective agency. Any fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical service, public health personnel or anyone who may, in the course of their normal duties, be first on the scene of a hazardous materials incident, and must initiate an appropriate response, are invited.

The last week in March had HMI traveling to Southeastern Utah to teach Hazmat Awareness. Stopping in Moab, Bicknell, Price and Duchesne. The trip had many volunteer firefighters of the rural communities participating.

World famous instructors Larry Wehrli, Richard Gee, and Dave Milligan taught about:

- Understanding what hazardous materials are and the risks or threats associated with them in an emergency situation.
- Understanding the potential outcomes of a hazardous materials incident.
- Recognizing the presence of hazardous materials in an emergency.
- Identifying common hazardous materials and determining basic hazard and response information from DOT placards and labels, container shapes and sizes, container markings and colors, shipping papers and material safety data sheets, and using your common sense.
- Learning how to use and interpret the information found in the most current version of the DOT Emergency Response Guidebook.

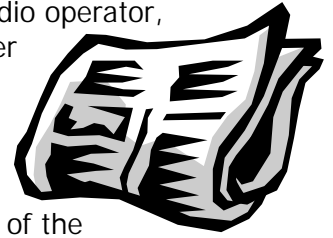


Look for future training courses throughout the state. You will find the extremely popular instructors Larry Wehrli, Richard Gee, and Gary Veterli next teaching Hazmat

Operations, scheduled in Southern Utah, SE April 22-27, SW May 20-24. Please contact us for more information or to sign up.

CEM OLYMPIC VOLUNTEER

Sanford Meek, an amateur radio operator, was a communications volunteer for CEM during the Olympics. Many times, he worked the overnight shift.



On March 14, 2002, Sanford was featured on the front page of the business section in the Salt Lake Tribune. He is the head of student engineering groups at the University of Utah who are trying to improve the Monoski, making it faster, cheaper, and more user friendly.

The shock resistance of the chair on the Monoski has been fashioned like the suspension on a car, so athletes can put more of their weight into a turn while maintaining balance. Meek claims after having this new Monoski licensed, he would like to make it affordable to all athletes who use it.

CEM is fortunate to have this caliber of volunteer available for any emergency or disaster. For more information on volunteering, contact us at 801.538.3400

HOW TO CROSS A PIRANHA-INFESTED RIVER

In an effort to keep Utahns completely prepared to deal with any crisis, we proudly present safety tips from the "Worst Case Survival Handbook". Look for more tips in upcoming issues.

Do not cross if you have an open wound! Piranhas are attracted to blood.

Avoid areas with netted fish, docks where fish are cleaned, and areas around bird rookeries. Piranhas may become habituated to feeding in these areas and may be more aggressive there.

Stay out of the water when piranhas are feeding. When large numbers of piranhas are attacking prey-a true feeding frenzy-they may snap and bite at anything around them. If you see them feeding, stay away, or well upriver.

Cross the river at night. Virtually every species of piranha rests at night, and when awakened, will swim away rather than attack.

Piranhas are most active at dawn, though some large adults may hunt in the evening.

Swim or walk across quickly and quietly. Try not to create a large disturbance in the water that might awaken piranhas.



NEXT MONTH: TIPS ON ESCAPING AFRICAN KILLER BEES.